

READINGTON TOWNSHIP

**Open Space Advisory Board
Environmental Commission**

Announces our Eighth Annual

TREE SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

Saturday, April 9, 2022

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM; “Rain or Shine”
READINGTON TWP MUNICIPAL BLDG
509 Route 523, Whitehouse Station NJ 08889**

Seedlings of various native species will be distributed free. Up to five trees per household, with a limit of two per species. Replant trees you lost in recent storms or add trees to your yard! Instructions will be available. Available to Readington residents.

The trees are “tubelings” (grown in plastic plug containers) :

- Range in size from six to ten inches,
- Various deciduous native species (see attached list),
- Plant promptly, or store in a cool, damp location for a day or so.
- Need to be protected from deer predation,
- Need to be kept watered through the first year or two.
- Bring your own bucket, bag or container to bring your trees home in.

First come, first served. No prior reservations.

Additional Info: Email envchair@readingtontwp-nj.org

List of Trees Available:

NOTE: There will be limited supply, or we may already be out of the species that you prefer. Therefore please be flexible and ready to accept from what we have to offer.

Maximum Allowance: 5 trees per family unit; two per species.

___	Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	___	Red twig dogwood	<i>Cornus Sericea</i>
___	Silver maple	<i>Acer Saccarinum</i>	___	Sweetgum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>
___	Black birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>	___	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
___	Grey birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>	___	Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>
___	River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	___	Black gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
___	Grey dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	___	Blackhaw viburnum	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>
___	Silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i>			

Tubeling Planting Instructions

Remove
Seedling
from Tube



1. Choose an appropriate site for your seedling. Keep in mind its adult size.
2. Loosen the soil 18 inches across, 8 inches deep.
3. Clear a spot in the middle of the soil 2-3 times as wide as the tube.
4. Remove seedling from the tube by squeezing the sides. Recycle the tube
5. Immediately place the seedling into the soil at the proper depth - root collar level with the surrounding ground.
6. Lightly pack the soil around the roots with your hands.
7. Mulch around the seedling.
8. Water regularly.

Protect your tree from deer. Encircle it with a wire cage or use a "tree tube".

Description of Tubeling Species Available for Readington Twp Giveaway April 2022

RED MAPLE (*Acer rubrum*):

Due to its attractive red fall foliage and pleasing form, it is often used as a shade tree for landscapes. Red maple is native and easy to grow and is adaptable to a very wide range of site conditions. It can grow to 60 feet in height at maturity. Small, red flowers in clusters mature in late winter, and the tree is one of the first to flower in early spring. It is not a preferred browse species for deer.



SILVER MAPLE (*Acer saccharinum*):

Silver maple is a very fast-growing native tree, reaching over 50 feet, with leaves that are green on top and silvery-white on the underside, creating a silvery look in a breeze. It tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, especially wet areas, but needs full sun. Roots often grow close to or at the soil surface and are extensive, so Silver maple should be planted away from sidewalks and septic. Considered to be more prone to breakage than many other species. Not a favorite of deer, but will suffer browse damage.



BLACK BIRCH (*Betula lenta*):

A native tree also called Sweet birch because of the wintergreen smell of its twigs and inner bark (the original source of birch beer and wintergreen). An attractive tree in all seasons, its foliage turns golden yellow in the fall. It grows fast in good soils, but is sensitive to drought and needs to be watered during dry periods. A good species for wildlife, and not a preferred species for deer browsing.



GRAY BIRCH (*Betula populifolia*):

Gray birch is fast-growing, becoming a small tree up to 30' tall, as either single or multiple trunks (usually the latter). The bark is white to light gray (its main feature). Compared to other trees, it is short-lived and prone to storm damage. Fall color is unspectacular. It does not tolerate heat well, and grows best in rain gardens and places with moist soil conditions, as in woodland gardens. Not a favorite species for deer browse.



RIVER BIRCH (*Betula nigra*):

River Birch is a medium to large deciduous native tree with from white to pinkish-brown, peeling bark and multiple trunks, which provides year-round ornamental interest, especially when planted in groups. The dark green, diamond-shaped leaves turn yellow in the fall. It is an adaptable tree that will grow in both wet and dry soils, although it will shed leaves in prolonged summer droughts. A good species to stabilize streambanks. It is fast growing and needs large spaces to grow and spread. In landscapes, it often outgrows the site in which it was planted, crowding out other plants and becoming unsightly. Deer do not typically prefer River birch.



GRAY DOGWOOD (*Cornus racemosa*)

Gray dogwood is a tough, low-maintenance shrub with year-round interest. White panicles of flowers appear in June. White berries attract many birds in the late summer and early fall. Reddish-pink fruit stems persist into the winter, adding a nice color contrast to the gray bark.

Gray dogwoods are great for mass plantings such as borders, or just groups. They can also be grown as small trees to be used for foundations, entranceways, borders, or specimen planting.



SILKY DOGWOOD (*Cornus amomum*):

Silky dogwood is a native, medium-sized deciduous shrub that can grow 6 to 12 feet tall. It is multi-stemmed, open, and rounded. Clusters of creamy white flowers bloom in the spring followed by blue drupes (like berries) that ripen late summer and attract birds. It can grow in full sun, partial shade, and will even tolerate almost full shade. It is most suited for moist or wet areas. Not a good choice for ornamental plantings. Unfortunately, Silky dogwood is a preferred browse species for deer and will need to be protected.



RED TWIG DOGWOOD (*Cornus sericea*): Red twig dogwood (or red osier dogwood) is a native, upright, spreading, shrub that can reach 6-9' tall with a slightly larger spread. Reddish stems turn bright red in winter and are particularly showy against snow. Tiny, fragrant, white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring. Clusters of whitish (or bluish) berry-like drupes appear in summer, which are quite attractive to birds and are as desirable as the flowers. Good when grown in mass plantings, especially shrub borders. Prefers moist to wet areas, where it is suitable for reducing erosion. Considered deer-resistant.



SWEET GUM (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

A native tree that likes full sun and develops a straight stem and a compact, symmetrical crown, it can grow to 75 feet or more as a specimen shade tree. It is known for its handsome foliage, shade, and its outstanding scarlet, purple, orange or yellow autumnal color. It is recognizable by the combination of its five-pointed star-shaped leaves and, once it matures, for its hard, spiked fruits ("gumballs") that contain seeds that attract birds. Does well on wet sites, but will tolerate a variety of soil conditions.



BLACK GUM or TUPELO (*Nyssa sylvatica*)

One of our most attractive medium-sized native trees, with beautiful dark green glossy leaves in summer that change in fall to yellow, orange, bright red, purple or scarlet, all on the same tree. It is slow-growing, and its perpendicular branching structure is distinctive. The bluish-black fruit attracts birds. Grows best in sun but will tolerate some shade. Not a deer favorite, but can be damaged by deer browsing.



BLACK OAK (*Quercus velutina*)

Black oak is sometimes hard to distinguish from other oaks. It can become a large tree and generally develops with a straight trunk, making it a fine shade tree. It prefers full sun but will tolerate some shade. Black oak has shiny dark green leaves and bark that is almost black, giving it its common name. The inner bark is typically bright yellow-orange. Black oak is a host to many beneficial insects and its acorns provide food for birds and wildlife. Deer will browse black oak, especially as seedlings.

**STAGHORN SUMAC (*Rhus typhina*)**

Staghorn sumac is a shrub or small multi-stemmed native tree that is typically not a great landscaping plant because of its tendency to spread aggressively from its roots. It is, however, valued for its showy fruit, relatively small maximum size, tolerance of urban conditions, and picturesque growth habit, as well as its velvety twigs. Its large, bright-green, compound leaves become extremely colorful, turning red, yellow or orange in early fall. On female plants, fuzzy, bright red berries in erect, pyramidal clusters appear late in the season and persist throughout winter. These hairy twigs resemble deer antlers "in velvet," hence the common name. Staghorn sumac attracts wildlife in all seasons. It is best used in informal gardens, near woods edges, or as a roadside screen because of its tolerance of salt spray and its ability to grow in tough areas. Generally resistant to deer browse.

**BLACKHAW VIBURNUM (*Viburnum prunifolium*)**

Blackhaw is a hardy, easy-to-grow, spreading shrub or small native tree, 12-15 ft. tall that provides interest all season. It bears showy white flower clusters in spring that attract bees and butterflies, followed by yellow berries turning blue-black in late summer that attract birds. The dark-green foliage becomes reddish-purple in fall. Black haw is a suitable plant for a shrub border or woodland edge. It tolerates filtered shade to sun and performs well in a wide range of soil. Deer do not generally browse Viburnum.

